from the famous Gundicha temple in Orrisa and 300 year old brass idol of Radha was stolen from the Gopal Tirtha temple at Puri;

(b) whether the idols have so far been recovered ; and

(c) what action have been taken by Government to prevent theft of idols in Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir, according to available information. However, these are not centrally protected monuments.

(b) According to reports, only the brass idol of Radha has been recovered.

(c) Several measures have been taken by Government to prevent theft of idols in the country including Orissa :

1. Watch and Ward arrangements have been strengthened in the centrally protected monuments.

2. A separate Circle with headquarters at Bhuvaneshwar has been opened in April, 1985 for better maintenance and security of monuments.

3. Under the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972, the notified categories of antiquities are being registered.

4. The export trade in antiquities and art treasures and compulsory acquisition of antiquities and art treasures, besides licensing of antiquity dealers have also been provided in the said Act, 1972.

5. The sculpture sheds, one at Lalitgiri and the other at Konarak have been constructed by the Archaelogical Survey of India.

6. A computerised data bank of cases of theft and recoveries of important cultural properties (Sculptures, idols paintings illustrated manuscripts), containing information about crimes and criminals is being maintained by the Central Bureau of Investigation).

7. Documentation of loose sculptures, paintings, illustrated manuscripts is in progress.

**Filling up the Post of Deputy Chairman of UGC**

1721. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of Deputy Chairman of the University Grants Commission is lying vacant ;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons therfore; and

(c) by when the new incumbent is likely to be appointed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) On the expiry of the three-year term of Prof. Rais Ahmed, the post of Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission has been lying vacant since 23-6-1985. The question of appointment of the new Vice-Chairman of the University Grants Commission is under the consideration of the Government.

**National Highway No. 8**

1722 SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to widen/strengthen or improve the National Highway No. 8 leading to Jaipur with the coming up of the Vigyan Nagar Industrial Project, 105 Km. from Delhi during 1986-87; and

(b) if so, what are the details of funds provided for this National Highway and when the work is likely to be started and completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) Improvement of the National Highways including widening/Strengthening etc. is a continuous process and depends on the volume of traffic, inter-se priority and availability of resources. Out of a total length of 154 km of Jaipur-Delhi Section of National Highway No. 8 falling within Rajasthan, strengthening of 55 kms has been included in the Annual Programme for the year 1986-87. An estimate for Survey and Investigation for widening the Section from Jaipur upto Alwar Road Junction has been sanctioned and the technical details thereof are being finalised in consultation with the State P. W.D. Out of the total allotment of Rs. 800 lakhs during 1985-86 for National Highway works in Rajasthan a sum of about Rs. 115 lakhs has been earmarked for works on Jaipur-Delhi Section.

**Cargo support to Indian Ships**

1723. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring forth any legislation to offer compulsory Cargo support to Indian bottoms with a view to bail out the Indian shipping lines from their present crisis :

(b) what are the details thereof and by when it is likely to be brought forth; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor and how Government propose to save the shipping industry from the impending disaster due to recession and stiff competition from tramp shipping on the Indian coast ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) Government in principle have taken a decision to bring forth legislation to implement the U. N. Code for Liner Conference which provides for equal rights of a country to participate in freight and volume of traffic and ensuring at least upto 40% of the cargo generated for Indian bottoms. In addition, the following measures have been undertaken to ensure greater cargo availability for Indian bottoms :—

(i) With a view to ensuring greater share of cargo for Indian vessels India has entered into bilateral shipping agreements which provide for parity in cargo liftings and freight earnings;

(ii) There are standing instructions to Public Sector Undertakings/ Government/Departments to negotiate as far as possible, C&F exports and FOB imports. These are designed to maximise cargo availability to Indian Lines.

(iii) Share of Indian Shipping Lines in the carriage of Iron ore exported by MMTC has been brought up through successful negotiations;

(iv) The use of foreign flag vessels in the oil trade has been brought down by arranging acquisition of suitable tankers for Indian Shipping companies.

(v) With a view to encourage use of Indian vessels it has been decided that (a) the freight paid shall not be debited to the face value of import licence if the ocean freight is paid in non-convertible